

**Table 45.171:
Load Line Requirements for Dry Cargo River Barges
Operating on Lake Michigan**

Voyages between Chicago (Calumet Harbor), IL and :				
	Burns Harbor, IN	Milwaukee, WI	St. Joseph, MI	Muskegon, MI
1) Load line requirement	Conditionally exempted from load line assignment (must meet requirements below)			
2) Where to register/apply	Exempted barges must be registered with the USCG Marine Safety Office 215 W. 83 rd St., Suite D Burr Ridge, IL 60521			
3) Eligible barges	Dry cargo river barges Built and maintained in accordance with ABS River Rules Length-to-depth ratio less than 22			
4) Freeboard requirement	No age limitation	Not more than 10 years old	No age limitation	
5) Tow limitations	All barges: freeboard must be at least 24 inches (610 mm) Open hopper barges: coaming height + freeboard must be at least 54 inches (1,372 mm)			
6) Cargo limitations	Barges must be unmanned Not more than 5 nautical miles from shore			
7) Weather limitations	"Fair weather" only	Ice conditions: adverse conditions that imperil tow or access to shelter Waves: 4 feet (1.2 m)		
If conditions exceed these limits, voyage may not begin, or must be discontinued and vessel must proceed to shelter		Sustained winds: 16 kts from NE, E, SE 21 kts from N, NW, W, SW, S	Sustained winds: 16 kts from N, NW, W, SW 21 kts from NE, E, SE, S	
8) Pre-departure preps:	Required -- as specified in § 45.191			
9) Towboat requirements	Sufficient to handle tow	Sufficient to handle tow, but at least-- 1,000 HP	1,500 HP	
(a) Power:	Recommended -- § 45.195(a)	Recommended -- § 45.195(a)	Required -- § 45.195(a)	
(b) Communication system:	Recommended -- § 45.195(b)	Recommended -- § 45.195(b)	Required -- § 45.195(b)	
(c) Cutting gear:	Recommended -- § 45.197	Recommended -- § 45.197	Required -- § 45.197	
(d) Operational plan:	Recommended -- § 45.197	Recommended -- § 45.197	Required -- § 45.197	

§ 45.173 Eligible barges.

Only barges meeting the following requirements are eligible for the special load line regime under this subpart:

(a) Unmanned, river service, dry-cargo barges;

(b) Barges that have been designed and built to at least the minimum scantlings of the American Bureau of Shipping River Rules which were in effect at the time of construction;

(c) Barges with a length-to-depth ratio less than 22; and

(d) Barges on the Milwaukee route must not be more than 10 years old.

§ 45.175 Applicable routes.

This subpart applies to the following routes on Lake Michigan, between Chicago (Calumet Harbor), IL, and—

(a) Milwaukee, WI (the “Milwaukee route”);

(b) Burns Harbor, IN (the “Burns Harbor route”);

(c) St. Joseph, MI (the “St. Joseph route”); and

(d) Muskegon, MI (the “Muskegon route”).

§ 45.177 Freeboard requirements.

(a) All barges must have a minimum freeboard of 24 inches (610 mm).

(b) Additionally, open hopper barges must have a combined freeboard plus cargo box coaming height of at least 54 inches (1,372 mm).

§ 45.179 Cargo limitations.

(a) Only dry cargoes may be carried. Liquid cargoes, even in drums or tank containers, may not be carried.

(b) Hazardous materials, as defined in part 148 of this chapter and 49 CFR chapter 1, subchapter C, may not be carried.

§ 45.181 Load line exemption requirements for the Burns Harbor and Milwaukee routes.

Barges operating on the Burns Harbor and Milwaukee routes may be conditionally exempted from load line assignment provided that the following requirements are met:

(a) *Registration.* Before the barge's first voyage onto Lake Michigan, the owner or operator must register the barge (in writing) with the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI), U.S. Coast Guard Sector Office, 215 W. 83rd St—Suite D, Burr Ridge, IL, 60521. The registration may be faxed to the OCMI in advance (at (630) 986-2120), with the original following by mail. The registration may be in any form, but must be signed by the owner or operator. No load line exemption certificate will be returned. However, the registration will be kept on file.

(b) The registration must include the following information:

(1) Barge name and official number (or other identification number);

(2) Owner and operator (points-of-contact, company addresses and telephone numbers);

(3) Service route (Milwaukee and/or Burns Harbor);

(4) Design type (covered/uncovered hopper, deck, etc.);

(5) External dimensions;

(6) Types of cargo; and

(7) Place built and original delivery date.

(c) The registration must include a statement certifying that:

(1) The barge has been designed and built to at least the minimum scantlings of the ABS River Rules which were in effect at the time of construction; and

(2) The owner or operator agrees to maintain the barge in serviceable condition and comply with the applicable provisions of 46 CFR part 45, subpart E.

(d) *Expiration.* Registration is valid only until the earliest of the following events:

(1) The tenth anniversary of the delivery date (for barges on the Milwaukee route),

(2) The barge no longer is fit for this service (due to damage), or

(3) The barge changes ownership or operators (registration is not transferable to new owners or operators; the barge must be re-registered if it is to continue in Lake Michigan service).

(e) *Notification.* The owner or operator of an exempted barge must notify the OCMI of the transfer of ownership or change of operator, withdrawal from Lake Michigan service (due to damage, age, or other circumstances), or other disposition of the barge.

[USCG-1998-4623, 67 FR 19690, Apr. 23, 2002, as amended by USCG-2006-25556, 72 FR 36330, July 2, 2007]

§ 45.183 Load line requirements for the St. Joseph and Muskegon routes.

(a) *Load line certificate.* (1) The load line issued under this subpart must be a limited-service, domestic-voyage load line.

(2) Except as provided under paragraph (b)(2)(vi) of this section, the term of the certificate is five years.